

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-17, 19-21, 23, and 24 are currently being prosecuted. Claims 19-21 are amended. Claims 1 and 6 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claims 1-17 to be allowed.

As the Examiner will note, claim 19 is rewritten in dependent form, and now depends from independent claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims, namely, claims 1-17, 19-21, 23, and 24 are now in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 19, 21, and 23 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by Clark (U.S. Patent 284,198) and claims 20 and 24 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Anderson (U.S. Patent 253,829). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Claim 19

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, independent claim 19 is rewritten in dependent form depending from independent claim 1.

Dependent claim 19 now recites:

at least one of the side walls of the seat bottom is provided with a first projection facing inwardly toward the seat back, and the seat back is provided with a second projection facing outwardly toward the seat bottom, the second projection capable of engaging the first projection to determine a limit of angle between the seat bottom and the seat back, and

each of the first and second projections being constructed with a flat planar projected surface, so that when the seat back is turned relative to the seat bottom, the second projection initially moves against and engages with the first projection on one side of the first projection, the second projection then climbs over the first projection, during which time the flat planar projected surfaces of the first projection and the second projection face each other, and finally the second projection moves beyond the first projection to a position on an opposite side of the first projection.

Support for the above features can be seen in FIGS. 14A and B.

No combination of Clark and Anderson suggests the invention set forth in claim 19. For example, Clark merely discloses a plate D with hollowed out grooves in the arms b, with pins C of the seat back B fitting within the hollowed out grooves of plate D. Clark does not suggest flat planar projected surfaces.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 20 and 21 are amended, and claims 23 and 24 remain unchanged. Claims 20, 21, 23, and 24 remain depending from claim 19.

At least for the reasons set forth above, the rejections of claims 19-22, 23, and 24 have been overcome, and claims 19-22, 23, and 24 are now in condition for allowance.

According, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S. C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) are respectfully requested.

All claims of this application are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly distinguish over the patents relied on by the Examiner.

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but to merely show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all of the claims are respectfully requested.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen, Registration No. 50,786, at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

A prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment

Office Action dated: August 10, 2004
Reply filed: November 10, 2004

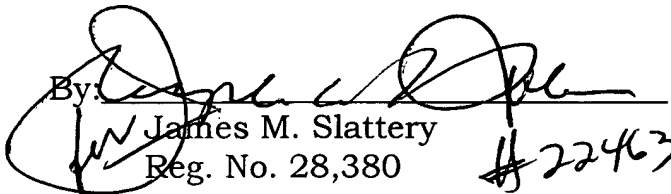
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to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37
C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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